

16 Ditson Place  
Methuen, Mass. 01844  
May 9, 1999

Lowell Historical Society  
Lowell, Mass.

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for referring the preliminary correction copy of my Lowell organ list to Mr. Goodwin. Not having heard from him, I have done the best I could without his input. However, additions and corrections from him would be welcome at any time.

The enclosed copy is the final version of the second edition. Unlike the first edition, this one is on computer disc so that changes can be put in at any time.

This information is not copyrighted and may be copied by anyone who desires. I may put it on the Internet later. Changes and corrections from anyone would be appreciated.

Lists such as this one have been made by me for Lawrence and vicinity, Haverhill and vicinity, Manchester, New Hampshire, Nashua, Concord, N.H., and Cape Cod. Similar lists for other areas have been made by others.

Sincerely,

*Robert J. Reich*

Robert J. Reich, Member

# **The Organs of Greater Lowell, Massachusetts**

including Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut,  
Tewksbury, and Tyngsboro

Prepared by Robert J. Reich, 16 Ditson Place, Methuen, Mass.  
01844, Telephone 978 688 1778. Revised to May 7, 1999.

The following list includes all known present and former churches of the area except for a few recently-organized churches that are presently meeting in commercial or residential type buildings, as well as other organ-holders. It is intended to include all pipe organs that were ever in regular use in the area. \* in the left margin indicates an organ or substantial change to one already listed; an organ moved from one church to another or one in a church that has changed hands is listed only once. S and P next to the left margin indicate that a stoplist is at hand and that a photograph has been obtained, respectively. "nko" indicates no organ known ever to have been there.

Valuable assistance is gratefully acknowledged from organ historians Edgar A. Boadway, Alan Laufman, Barbara J. Owen, and Martin R. Walsh.

## **ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

**Lowell:** Advent Christian, began as 2nd Free Will Baptist, became 2nd Advent; bldg. 49 Grand St.; 1953 Assembly of God; later African Methodist; entire area part of urban redevelopment, present status of this church unknown. nko

## **ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH**

**Lowell:** St. Vartan's Gregorian Armenian, 54 Lawrence St., nko.

## **BAPTIST CHURCHES**

**Billerica:**

**First Baptist**, church disbanded; building, formerly Universalist, sold to St. Theresa's R.C., replaced c1950 with new church bldg., old retained as parish hall, still standing in other use.

Organ: Stevens; presumed to have been acquired with the bldg. from the Universalists; probably discarded either when bldg. was sold to the Roman Catholics or when it was converted to a parish hall but definite information seems to be unavailable.

**North Billerica Baptist**, bldg. 1871.

\* 1st organ: Wm. Goodrich, from 1st Baptist, Lowell.

\*PS 2nd organ: E. W. Lane, 1898, 2m, 12r.

\* 3rd organ: Kershaw c1960, rebuild of Lane, electrification with new windchests and console, not much tonal change.

### **Chelmsford:**

**First Baptist**, aka Central Baptist:

\* Organ, Estey #1003, 1912; said to have been greatly enlarged c1970 by volunteers in the church.

### **Lowell:**

**Blossom St. Baptist**, organized as Blossom St. Baptist Mission, 53 Blossom St., later known as Immanuel Baptist (q.v.).

**Branch St. Tabernacle**, aka Calvary Baptist, organized 1869, known exclusively in recent decades by the latter name. 1st bldg. 1872, 139 Branch St., sold 1909 to Notre Dame de Lourdes R.C.; 2nd bldg. corner of Hastings and Liberty Sts., burned c1950; 3rd bldg., same location.

\*P 1st organ: Simmons, 2m, 22r, rebuilt by Stevens; the original case as shown in several extant photographs appears to be earlier than 1872; the changes included at least new case pipes which extended above the wood; this organ was located in a front gallery.

\*PS 2nd organ: E.W. Lane, 2m, 1906, electric action; designed by Wm. B. Goodwin; photograph appeared in newspaper 1909. This organ burned with the bldg. and was not replaced; electronic instruments have been in use in the present bldg.

**Calvary Baptist**, see Branch St. Tabernacle.



**Central Baptist**, organized ?, in 1851 took over the bldg. on Merrimac St. at Kirk that had been used by First Free Will Baptist. Combined 1927 with First Baptist to form First United Baptist at the 1st Bapt. bldg. Confusing and incomplete listings in various sources cast some doubt as to whether Central Baptist and Page St. Baptist were actually two separate organizations or merely one that had several buildings and different names. In any case, no organs can be ascribed specifically to Central Baptist.

**Chelmsford St. Free Baptist**, organized 1/6/1883 as Faith Chapel; this name taken about 1889; now known as Chelmsford St. Baptist; bldg. 1889 (Hurd says 1882), Chelmsford St. at Plain St.

\*PS 1st organ, Stevens, 2m, 11r; 3 additional ranks lacking basses provided by Wm B. Goodwin.

\* 2nd organ, Kershaw, c1964, electrification with new console.

**Ennell St. Baptist**, organized 1898 as French Baptist Mission, recently a Hispanic church. No organ present in 1956 and presumably none ever.

**Fifth St. Baptist**, organized 1874; 1st bldg. 1874, enlarged 1880, burned 2/26/1979; 2nd bldg. 1980.

\*PS Organ: J.H.Wilcox #20, c1871, 2-19, from Joseph Ely residence; destroyed by fire c1970, not replaced by pipe organ.

**First Baptist**, organized 2/8/1826; combined 1927 with Central Baptist to form 1st United Baptist at 1st Bapt.; bldg. 1826 George St. at Church St., seated 1100.

\* 1st organ: Wm.Goodrich, 1832, 2m, cost \$2000, went to N. Billerica Bapt., now gone.

\*P 2nd organ: Stevens, c1860, 2-21, revised by Geo.H.Ryder.

\*PS 3rd organ: Jesse Woodberry & Co., 1900, 3m, rebuilt by Laws with new console, perhaps other changes.

\*P 4th organ: C.B.Fisk, c1970, 2m, 22r; a rebuild of E.&G.G.Hook #195, 1856, 2-30, from the Church St. Church, New Haven, Conn., utilizing the case from Hook #180, 1855, Center Cong., New Haven, all with assistance from the Organ Clearing House.

**First Free Will Baptist**, aka Paige St. Baptist, organized 1833 at the Hamilton St. School on Merrimac St. at Kirk; 1st bldg. 1837 brick at that location, evicted 1846; 2nd bldg., rented on Prescott St. from 1st Wesleyan Meth.; 3rd bldg. 1853, new wood bldg. without tower on Paige St., sofas for 850; in 1925 joined with Central Baptist or changed



name to Central Bapt.; in 1927 joined with 1st Bapt.; 1934 independent again; 1940 gone. No mention of organs prior to 1853.

- \* 1st organ: Stevens, \$800, present in 1859 but perhaps installed in 1853, went to St. Augustine, Fla., according to Goodwin.
- \* 2nd organ: Stevens, 2-16, revised by Geo.S.Hutchings.
- \* 3rd organ: Frazee, #72, 1920, 2m, 2-28 (another source says 20).

**First United Baptist**, see First Baptist.

**Hadley St. Baptist**, aka Hadley St. Free Will Baptist and later as Middlesex Village Church (q.v.).

**Immanuel Baptist**, organized 1893 as Blossom St. Baptist Mission, 53 Blossom St.

- \* Organ: H&H #1193, 1883, from Mrs. Thomas T. Fisher residence, Hartford, Conn.; went to St. Joseph's R.C., Ballardvale c1955; removed c1972; altered and now in Bethel Lutheran Church in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

**Middlesex Village Church**, aka Hadley St. Free Will Baptist, organized 1897; bldg. 60 Hadley St. 1897, closed 1939, torn down. Other source indicates bldg. was moved to N. Chelmsford to become St. John's R.C.

- \* Organ: Wm.Goodrich, 1m, disposition unknown.

**Mt. Vernon Chapel, Free Will Baptist**, organized 1/1/1875; bldg. at Butterfield c. Mt. Vernon 1873; 1913 church closed bldg. sold to 1st Evan. Lutheran; now Orthodox.

- \* Organ: Geo.Stevens, 1888, 2m, destroyed 1964.

**Paige St. Free Will Baptist**, formerly 1st Free Will Baptist (q.v.), new name taken after move to Paige St. in 1853.

**Second Baptist**, aka Worthen St. Baptist (q.v.).

**Second Free Will Baptist**, organized 1840; changed theological views and in 1843 became the Second Advent Ch.; known in later years as the Advent Christian Ch.; disbanded 1953; 1st bldg. 1842 on Colburn St.; sold to 3rd F.W.Baptist; 2nd bldg., bought former bldg. of 2nd Meth. on Suffolk St. more recently used by 1st Christian; 3rd bldg. 1845, chapel on Kirk St., given up in 1865; various rented quarters until

1888, then built at 49 Grand Ave; this bldg. sold 1953 to Assembly of God; now African Methodist. nko

**Swedish Baptist**, organized 1904; bldg. on Gorham St. c. Olney ded. 6/1905; church closed by 1934; 1905 newspaper article mentions organ.

\* Organ: ?

**Third Baptist Society**, organized 1840 at City Hall; bldg. 1846 John St., brick, seated 640; church closed in 1861; bldg. sold 1862 to Central Methodist.

\*P Organ: Present in 1859, cost \$800; 1915 photograph shows small organ at front left; looks like 1m Stevens.

**Third Free Will Baptist**, organized 1843, took over Colburn St. Church from 2nd Free Will Baptist; church closed by 1845.

**Worthen St. Baptist**, aka Second Baptist, organized 1831; 1st bldg. 1833, Lowell and Suffolk Sts., brick, later used by 2nd Meth., then 1st Christian, then 2nd Free Will Bapt., then in 1847 sold to St. Patrick's R.C. for use as a mission church called St. Mary's; 2nd bldg. 1837 at 217 Worthen St., wood, seated 800, burned 1887; 3rd bldg. 1890 same location; church ceased to exist 1937; bldg. taken over by St. George Greek Orthodox, burned 1973.

\* 1st organ: Geo.Stevens 1838, 1m., burned.

\* 2nd organ: Geo.Stevens 1890, 2-21.

\*P 3rd organ: Geo.H.Ryder #153, 1890, 2-21, rebuild of Stevens; moved 1937(?) to Hillside Cong., Dracut, destroyed 1953.

Note: It is not clear whether the first organ listed is the one that burned in 1887 or whether a 2m organ replaced the 1st organ prior to the fire.

## **Tewksbury:**

### **First Baptist**

\* Organ: Geo.H.Ryder, rebuilt by Jesse Woodberry with a Goodwin-designed case; rebuilt and electrified by W.W.Laws. Another version is that Woodberry built a new organ (2-16) for this church in 1907 and moved the Ryder to St. John's R.C. in N. Chelmsford.

## **CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

### **Lowell:**



**First Christian Society**, organized c1835 at Classic Hall; 1839 at Mechanics Hall, 1840 bought bldg. on Lowell St. from 2nd Meth.; disbanded by 1845, bldg. sold to 2nd Free Will Baptist. nko

## **CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCHES**

### **Lowell:**

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST**, organized 1896; used various rent quarter until 1919; bldg. c. Andover and Nesmith Sts. 1919; new bldg. c1950 at same location.

**SECOND CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST**, organized 1916, took over bldg. from House of Prayer, Walker St.; disbanded 1933.  
Organ: probably retained the Ryder organ used by the House of Prayer (q.v.).

## **CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES**

### **Billerica:**

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**, organized ? ; bldg.; enlarged ? .

First instrument was a melodeon.

- \* 1st organ: E.&G.G.Hook, 6r, installed 2nd-hand, 1861.
- \* 2nd organ: S.S.Hamill 1892, moved within church 1928, mechanical renovations with some tonal changes 1962 by Andover Organ Co.

### **Chelmsford:**

**First Congregational**, organized ? ; 1st bldg. ? , 2nd bldg. c1965.

- \* 1st organ: ?
- \* 2nd organ: Geo.H.Ryder #186, 1897, 2m, c14r, obtained 1919 from First Trinitarian, Lowell; this organ may have been a rebuild of an earlier organ; it had many pipes that appeared older.
- \* 3rd organ: Kershaw, c1965, new organ installed in two chambers above the chancel in the new bldg. and containing at least 8 ranks of pipes from previous organ. Some pipes are marked B.G.&W. #3 which signifies Brennan, Gleason, & White, a firm with which Ryder merged in 1895.



**North Chelmsford Congregational**, 17 Princeton St.; 1st bldg. ? ,  
burned 1893.

- \* 1st organ: ? burned
- \*P 2nd organ: Johnson 2m, 2nd hand
- \* 3rd organ: Wm. F. Laws, c1955, chiefly an electrification of previous organ.

### **Dracut:**

**Hillside Congregational**, org. ?; united with 1st Cong. c1960 at 1st.

- \* 1st organ: Geo.Stevens, 1847, rebuilt by Wm.B.D. Simmons, moved to Dracut 1896 by Geo.S.Hutchings, 2-19; presumed broken up.
- P 2nd organ: Geo.Stevens, rebuilt by Geo.H.Ryder, 2-21, moved c1937 to Dracut from Worthen St. Baptist, Lowell; destroyed c1955.

**First Congregational**, aka The Yellow Meetinghouse.

- \* 1st organ: Geo. Stevens, 1850, 2m, \$400; handsome case of 5 sections; one of only a few known to have rounded towers.
- \* 2nd organ: AEolian-Skinner #1125, 1947, 2m, 8r, retaining Stevens case; in use. This organ has space on the framework for five or six stops in addition to the three 8' stops now present in the Great and four or five in addition to the four stops now present in the Swell. It seems therefore that the organ as it stands is less than half of what was planned and that presumably the church intended to add the other stops within a few years. Herein may lie the explanation for the comment heard about this organ that the previous one sounded much better.

### **Lowell:**

**All Souls, Congregational-Unitarian**; organized 1919 by federation of High St. Cong. (q.v.) and First Unitarian (q.v.) at High St. bldg.

**Appleton St. Congregational**, aka 2nd Cong. (q.v.), changed name to Eliot Cong. in 1874 at time of move to Summer and Favor Sts.

**Eliot Congregational**, formerly Appleton St. Cong., aka 2nd Cong. (q.v.); moved c1874 from Appleton St. to a new bldg. at Summer and Favor Sts. and took the new name Eliot Cong. to commemorate the site of the new church where John Eliot had preached to the Indians two hundred years earlier; merged 1956 with 1st Pres. to form Eliot Pres. at bldg. of Eliot Cong.

**Fifth Congregational**, aka High St. Cong., organized 1846; bought bldg. of St. Luke's Epis. on High St. seating 880; rebuilt at 58 E. Merrimack St.; new parish house 1921; combined 1919 with 1st Unitarian to form All Souls' at bldg. of High St. Ch.; merged c1967 with First Cong. and Highland Cong. to form United Church of Christ at bldg. of All Souls'. This bldg. was constructed in 1845 by St. Luke's Epis., an offshoot of St. Anne's, which disbanded in 1846 before the bldg. was completed. It possessed an almost unbelievable amount of quasi-Gothic ornamentation which was completely eliminated when the bldg. was reconstructed and enlarged in 1921.

1st organ: Present in the bldg. when bought from St. Luke's Epis. in 1846; went to Lancaster, N.H.; this was said by Goodwin to have been a Goodrich, but the Boston Musical Gazette of 1/18/47 says Stevens. This indicates that the Goodrich, second hand and presumably very small, was replaced by a Stevens in 1847.

2nd organ: Stevens, 1847, present in 1859 according to the City Directory, and cost \$1600, went to Newbury, Vt.

\*P 3rd organ: Geo.Stevens, c1870, 2m, 26r; it was said to be removed when the next organ arrived, put into storage, and eventually broken up, 1923. One reservoir was said by Goodwin to have been used by Emmons Howard in the Municipal Auditorium organ.

\* 4th organ: E. M. Skinner, #299, 1919, 4m, Echo section in elaborate case located in rear gallery; some tonal changes by Kershaw; in use.

**First Congregational**, organized 1826; 1st bldg. 1827, 240 Merrimack St.; small steeple, seated 800; 2nd bldg. 1884, same location; c1967 merged with Highland Cong. and All Souls to form United Church of Christ at All Souls bldg.; 1st Cong. bldg. to City of Lowell for elderly affairs.

\* 1st organ: Geo.Stevens pre-1847, \$1250. (Bos. Mus. Gaz. 1/18/47).

\* 2nd organ: Geo.S.Hutchings #144, 1885, 3-40, 32r, \$5965.

\* 3rd organ: Frazee #62, c1920, electrification and enlargement, 4-48; exists almost unplayable, damaged by vandalism and lack of maintenance.

**First Trinitarian Congregational**, offshoot of 1st Cong. 1897

(claiming to be the original church organized 1826); bldg. on Dutton St. near Merrimack; consolidated with 1st Cong. 1919.

\* Organ: Geo.H.Ryder #186, 1897, 2m, c14r, possibly a rebuild of an older organ; it contained several older ranks of pipes; sold to Chelmsford Cong. (q.v.).



**Fourth Congregational**, aka Kirk St. Cong. (Mr. Blanchard's Church); organized 5/21/1845; bldg. 1846, Kirk St., white wood, no tower, seated 853; 1872 front of bldg. moved out 6 feet; 1916 torn down for new high school. The furnishings, including organ and furnace, were moved to Central Methodist whose bldg. was shared by the two congregations. After much wrangling and recrimination, this arrangement was terminated in 1919 when the Kirk St. Church combined with Eliot Cong. to form Eliot Union Church at the Eliot bldg.

- \*PS 1st organ: Geo.Stevens 1847, 2m, 19reg., 1238 pipes; \$1800.
- \* 2nd organ: Wm.B.D.Simmons rebuild of Stevens organ; 1879, rebuilt and moved by Hutchings to Hillside Cong., Dracut, 2-19.
- \* 3rd organ: Ryder, 1896, \$4000 plus old organ; said to have been moved to Central Meth. in 1916 (Goodwin says Hillside Cong., but the latter had the remains of a different organ when seen in the 1950s). Disposition unknown.

**French Congregational**, organized 7/3/1877; 1st bldg. burned 1879; 2nd bldg. 1881, Fletcher St. at Bowers; church closed 1920; bldg. taken over by St. George Syrian Orthodox.  
Organ: none present in 1956.

**High St. Congregational**, aka Fifth Cong. (q.v.).

**Highland Cong.**, organized 1884; 1st bldg. 1884 wood; 2nd bldg. 1888 Westford at Canton, torn down 1970; church merged with 1st Cong. and All Souls in 1969 at All Souls bldg.

- \*PS Organ: Cole & Woodberry 1892; 2m,17r; tonally revised 1958 by R.J.Reich, 19r; removed 1969; installed 1974 at St. John's Epis., Kirkland, Washington, through services of the Organ Clearing House.

**John St. Church**, aka Third Congregational (q.v.).

**Kirk St. Church**, aka Fourth Congregational (q.v.).

**Pawtucket Church**, organized 1797 as West Congregational Society of Dracut; 1819-1837 known as Presbyterian of Dracut, then again as West Cong. Soc., in 1880 known as the Pawtucket Church; 1st bldg. 1797, Mammouth Rd., burned 1899; 2nd bldg. 1899, brick.

- \* 1st organ: Geo.Stevens 1850, \$400, 1m, 6r, no pedal; in use in 1887; went to organist E.A.Barrell for use in a choir room in Newton and later at Grace Epis. in New Bedford.



- \* 2nd organ: ? burned 1899.
- \*PS 3rd organ: James Cole #281, 1905, 2m, 18r; in use.

**Second Congregational**, aka Appleton St. Cong., organized 1831; 1st bldg. 1831 on Appleton St., \$15000, stone, no tower, seats 853, sold to 1st Pres; 2nd bldg. 1874, Summer and Favor Sts., 1st service 1/1/75; changed name to Eliot Cong. at time of move; 1919 merged with Kirk St. Cong. to form Eliot Union Church at bldg. of Eliot Church; c1958 merged with 1st Pres. at Eliot Church to form Eliot Presbyterian.

- \* 1st organ : Holbrook & Ware 1834.
- 2nd organ: Geo.Stevens c1852, \$1400, sold 1874 with the building to 1st Pres., apparently moved back 1878.
- \*P 3rd organ: Geo.Stevens 1878, \$3500, 2-26 (date and price from a notation inside the organ written by Wm. B. Goodwin; another source gives the date as 1875 and the price as \$4500).
- \* 4th organ: Goodwin, 1891, "revoiced, 3 1/2" wind" (notation inside organ); except for case, destroyed 1947 when Allen electronic installed.
- 5th organ: Austin, #1369, 1926, 2m, 17r, moved from 1st Pres. when the two churches combined.

**Swedish Congregational**, organized 1886, later called Covenant Cong.; believed disbanded c1970; bldg. at 61 London St.

- \* 1st organ: E.&G.G.Hook #2 1829, from Burlington, Vt., via Billerica, Mass., Unitarian; 1m,10reg., presumed destroyed.
- \* 2nd organ: Wicks; disposition unknown.

**Third Congregational**, org. 1832; in 1834, known as First Free Church, in 1837, 3rd Church; used former Meth. bldg. at Market and Suffolk Sts. for a time, then various rented quarters, disbanded 1838. nko

**Third Congregational**, aka John St. Cong., org. 5/9/1839; bldg. 1839 at John and Paige Sts.; white wood with steeple, seated 1000, rebuilt 1846 and 1871; disbanded 1905.

- \* 1st organ: Stevens 1843, \$1200, went to Avon, Mass., R.C.
- \* 2nd organ: Stevens, 2-14 (Goodwin).
- \* 3rd organ: Geo.S.Hutchings #171 1887, 2m, 43reg, \$6361.19; moved to St. Paul's Methodist 1903; after a fire in 1907, repaired and enlarged by Goodwin; in use

at the latter church. A copy of the dedication program (12/4/87), including stoplist, is at the Lowell Museum; also program of special exhibition played 11/28/87 by W. H. Clarke.

**United Church of Christ**, formed c1967 by merger of First Cong., All Souls Church, and Highland Cong. (q.v.).  
Organs: see Fifth Cong.

### **Pelham, N.H., Congregational**

- \*P 1st organ: Stevens, 1859, 2m, \$569; moved to front 1889, case widened to fill available space by adding two case sections to the original three but in a style somewhat different.
- \* 2nd organ: W.W.Laws, 1940, 2m, 5 rank Austin unit with new console installed behind Stevens case.

### **Tewksbury, Congregational.** Burned.

- \*P 1st organ: (old photo shows tracker organ possibly Stevens, but if so rather different than usual); burned.
- \*S 2nd organ: Frazee c1950, 5r unit, pipes behind curtain in front with console in rear gallery.

### **Tyngsboro Evangelical (Congregational)**

- \*PS 1st organ: E.&G.G.Hook, #359, 1865, 1m, 13reg., from Chatham, Mass., Methodist; went to Calvary Baptist, Haverhill, and in 1998 through the Organ Clearing House to Columbia, S.C., Christ the King Lutheran, moved and restored after fire by Andover Organ Co.
- \*PS 2nd organ: Hook & Hastings #1193, 1883, 2m, 7r, originally in the residence of Mrs. Thomas T. Fisher, Hartford, Conn.; subsequently installed at Ballardvale (Andover), St. Joseph's R.C., (q.v.).

## **EPISCOPAL CHURCHES**

### **Billerica:**

#### **St. Andrew's**, North Billerica (St. Anne's?).

- \* 1st organ: Wm.Goodrich, 1m.
- \* 2nd organ: Estey #524, 2m, 1907.
- \* 3rd organ: Williams unit 3r (?), 2m; rebuild of Estey?



## Chelmsford,

### All Saints,

- \* 1st organ: James Cole, c1905 tracker, 2m, 7r; largely destroyed by Kershaw, parts now in a 1m residence organ in Brookline through Organ Clearing House..
- \* 2nd organ: Rostron Kershaw, c1960, 3m; installed in new church, new console, Great chest Estey, Swell chests H&H, pipes from both and others as well; removed fall 1998 by OCH, sold to R. Rutz.
- \* 3rd organ: old tracker organ of unknown make installed c1985 in the chapel which is the original church.
- \* 4th organ: M.P.Moller, 3m, rebuilt by Orgues Letourneau, 1998, retaining some pipes of previous organ..

### Lowell:

House of Prayer, organized 1876; very "high"; bldg. on Walker St. 1876; closed 1912; reopened 1913 at St. Luke's Mission, finally closed 1914; bldg. rented 1916 to Christian Science Society until 1933; torn down c1950.

- \* Organ: Geo.H.Ryder #64, 1876, 2m, 7r; disposition unknown.

St. Anne's, organized 2/20/1824, as the company church when the first mills were built. For many years, groups withdrew to form new churches of various denominations, being constantly replaced by new workers arriving in the city. Bldg. 1825 on Merrimac St., stone, seated 825; enlarged 1843.

- \* 1st organ: Wm.Goodrich 1828; to Hudson, Mass.
- \*P 2nd organ: Wm.Stevens 1853, \$643 plus old organ; 1859 city directory says organ then in use cost \$1200; modified by Ryder, Hutchings, Goodwin, Coburn, at several different times; installed in Metcalf residence, probably by Goodwin; now 3m in Centralville Methodist where it retains such original characteristics as a 17 note pedal keyboard.
- \*P 3rd organ: Hook & Hastings #1231 1884 3-39, 30r.
- \* 4th organ: W.W.Laws electrification 1929, tonal revisions 1972 by Wilson Barry with addition of Echo division.
- \* 5th organ: Hilborne L. Roosevelt #57 1881 installed in chapel 1979; from Evans Mills, N.Y., formerly in Alexandria Bay, N.Y., Dutch Reformed, through services of OCH..

St. John's, organized 1860; bldg. on Gorham St. 1861, stone, tower removed c1950 with gruesome visual results.



- \* 1st organ: E.&G.G.Hook #293 1861, 1-14, rebuilt by Geo.H.Ryder as his #9 for Plymouth, Mass., Methodist, later replaced by Estey and presumed destroyed.
- \*PS 2nd organ: Geo.H.Ryder #3 1871, 2-24; somewhat modified by Goodwin but in current use; reed stops removed c1970, reportedly by Wilson Barry, now in storage on attic floor.

**St. Luke's**, aka Second Episcopal, organized 1839; bldg. 1845 at High and Merrimack Sts.; church disbanded 1846, sold bldg. to Fifth Congregational.

- \* Organ: Wm.Goodrich, went to Lancaster, N.H. (Goodwin).

## **LUTHERAN CHURCHES**

### **Chelmsford:**

**Trinity**, formerly in Lowell (q.v).

- \* 1st organ: Electric action, perhaps Wicks, destroyed by water.
- \* 2nd organ: G.S.Hutchings #502, 1900, 2-7, from Epis. (formerly Universalist), Plymouth, N.H., where it had been installed second hand by Hutchings Organ Co.; later in Epiphany Episcopal, Newport, N.H.; later in Gilbert Stockwell residence; installed here and rebuilt in 1978 by Stuart Organ Co. as their opus 18; through the services of the Organ Clearing House.

### **Lowell:**

**First Evangelical**: organized 1906; in 1913 took over bldg. of Mt. Vernon Baptist; disbanded by 1957; bldg. now Orthodox; largely destroyed by fire 4/25/99.

- \* Organ: Stevens, 2m, destroyed c1964.

**Swedish Lutheran**, later Trinity Lutheran; organized 5/23/1882; 1st bldg. 1885, Meadowcroft near Moore St.; sold to 7th Day Advent; 2nd bldg. c1970, Chelmsford (q.v.).

- \* 1st organ: E.&G.H.Hook, 2nd hand in 1894, a Stevens of 2m and 24s, assumed destroyed.
- \* 2nd organ: Morton, theatre organ, rebuilt, perhaps installed by Kershaw; not moved to new bldg.

## **METHODIST CHURCHES**

### **Chelmsford:**

**West Chelmsford Methodist**, bldg. 1888, nko

**South Chelmsford Methodist**, old bldg., nko

**East Chelmsford Methodist**, formerly Zion Primitive Methodist in Lowell (q.v.).

### **Lowell:**

**Central Methodist**, organized 4/1854; shared bldg. with Kirk St. Cong. 1916-1919; closed 1924; 1st bldg., bought bldg. at Merrimac and Central Sts. from 2nd Wesleyan Meth. that was built by 3rd Universalist, later known as Barrister's Hall and eventually torn down; 2nd bldg., 1862 bought bldg. from 3rd Baptist at John and Page Sts.; torn down after church closed in 1924.

\* 1st organ: in 1st bldg., cost \$200 second hand. Not known whether it was installed by Central Meth. or was bought from the previous owners of the bldg.

\*P 2nd organ: 1859 City Directory says organ cost \$800 so this may be a second organ in the first bldg. but presumably moved to the second bldg. in 1862 and appearing in a 1915 photograph.

3rd organ: from Kirk St. Cong. in 1916, perhaps installed in rear with previous organ remaining in front.

4th organ: Wm.A.Johnson #55, 1856, 2m, 24reg.; from Worthen St. Meth. moved in 1921.

It seems unlikely that both the 3rd and 4th organs were really installed in this church and there is no clear evidence that either one was. Goodwin says a Stevens from this church went to Whitinsville.

**Centralville Methodist**, organized 6/19/1887; bldg. 1889 at Bridge and Hildreth Sts., brick.

\*PS Organ: Wm.Stevens from St. Anne's Epis., 1854, c1905, 3-33, by way of Metcalf residence, rebuilt by Ryder, Hutchings, Goodwin, and Coburn; in use.

**First Methodist**, aka St. Paul's Meth.; organized 1826; 1st bldg. at Elm and Central Sts., later moved to Prescott St.; 2nd bldg. 1839 on Hurd St., brick, square tower, seated 1200.



- \* 1st organ: Joseph Alley, 1m, sold to Grace Church Epis., Lawrence.
- \*P 2nd organ: Stevens 1846, \$1400, 2-18, moved to front in 1860, sold to 1st Primitive Meth. for \$400 and moved by Woodberry.
- PS 3rd organ: Geo.S.Hutchings #171, 1887, originally \$6500, bought for \$2500, moved 1903 by Jesse Woodberry from John St. Cong., 2-38; damaged by fire in Jan., 1907, repaired by Wm. B. Goodwin.

**First Swedish Methodist Episcopal**, organized 1892, later called Fellowship Methodist; bldg. 1894; perhaps still in existence but no evidence of any organ has been found.

**First Wesleyan Methodist**, organized 1843 on Bartlett St., breaking away from 1st Meth. on the slavery issue; bldg. 1843 moved old 1st Meth. bldg. from Chapel Hill to Prescott St. where the church was known as the Prescott St. Church; church closed in 1851 or earlier and sold bldg. to 1st Free Will Baptist in that year. nko

**Highland Methodist**, aka Highland Union Meth., organized 3/12/1875, as Loring St. Meth.; merged 1980 with St. Paul's Meth.; bldg. 1876.

- \*PS Organ: Hutchings, Plaisted & Co. #105, 1881, 2-16, 10r, installed left front, moved later to center; sold 1980, rebuilt by P. A. Beaudry and installed 1981 in Newton, Mass., United Methodist through OCH.

**St. Paul's Methodist**; see First Methodist.

**Second Methodist**, became Worthen St. Methodist (q.v.), organized before 1832; 1st bldg. before 1832 on Lowell St. at Suffolk, a large house, sold 1840 to 1st Christian; 2nd bldg. 1840, Suffolk St. near Lowell, bought from 2nd Bapt., sold to St. Mary's R.C.; 3rd bldg. 1842 at 200 Worthen St.

Organ: ?

**Second Wesleyan Methodist**, aka Prescott St. Church, organized 1843, disbanded 1858; 1st bldg., 1843, rented from Worthen St. Methodist the bldg. originally built by Worthen St. Baptist; sold in 1849 to St. Patrick's R.C.; met in Merrimack House Hall 1849-1853; 2nd bldg. 1853 on Merrimack St. at Central from 3rd Universalist; 3rd bldg. 1855 Prescott St. Church from 1st Free Will Baptist; church disbanded by 1858.

- \* Organ: 1855 "one of the finest toned organs in the city"; this may be the organ listed as a Stevens for 1st Free Will Baptist.



**Third Methodist**, organized 1842 at Mechanics Hall, 1855 built stone bldg. on Merrimack St.; disappeared from records soon thereafter.  
nko

**Worthen St. Methodist**, formerly Second Methodist (q.v.), organized before 1832; 3rd bldg. 1842, 200 Worthen St., seated 850, wood, no tower; church closed 1920; 1923 bldg. was Worthen St. African Methodist until 1930; 1924 also was Church of All Nations, Methodist, Greek and Syrian until 1946; then became Lowell Girls' Club.

\*P Organ: Wm.A.Johnson #55 1856, 2-24, 19r, \$1300; rebuilt by Geo. Stevens, moved 1921 to Central Methodist (q.v.), disposition unknown.

### **Westford:**

#### **Graniteville Methodist**

\* Organ: E.&G.G.Hook #423, 1867, 2m, 26reg., from Lowell, 1st Unitarian; destroyed c1940 but facade remained for many years until purchased c1980 by Andover Organ Co. and installed 1987 in Trinitarian Congregational, North Andover. Note: Wm. B. Goodwin's list seems to indicate that an earlier organ, E.&G.G.Hook #9, 1832, 2m, 24reg., also went from the same church in Lowell to this church but no confirmation has been found.

### **ORTHODOX CHURCHES**

**Church of the Transfiguration Greek Orthodox**, organized 1926, 25 Clark St. at Hancock. nko

**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox**, organized 1907; bldg. at 107 Lewis St. at Jefferson. nko

**St. George Greek Orthodox**, 1937 took over Worthen St. Baptist bldg.; burned c1968; 1969 took over First Grace Universalist bldg. 1st organ: Geo.H.Ryder (see Worthen St. Baptist), removed to Dracut and probably never used by this church. 2nd organ: Geo.Stevens (see 2nd Univ.); this organ was located in a side gallery and was allowed to remain although not known to have been used; no recent information but thought to exist.

St. George Syrian Orthodox, took over bldg. of French Cong. in 1920. nko

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

### Lowell:

Eliot Presbyterian, formed c1956 by merger of 1st Pres. (q.v.) and Eliot Cong. (q.v.) at Eliot bldg.

First Presbyterian, organized 6/23/1869; meetings had been held as early as 1859 in Mechanics Hall; merged c1956 with Eliot Cong. to form Eliot Pres. at the Cong. bldg.; 1st bldg. bought 1873 for \$15,000 from Appleton St. Cong., 2nd bldg. 1956 obtained by merger with Eliot Congregational at the Eliot bldg.; 1st bldg. torn down.

- \* 1st organ: Goodrich, 2nd hand, moved to Rockland, Me.  
2nd organ: Stevens c1855 moved 1878 from Eliot Church and previously in the Appleton St. bldg. of that church, that is, moved by the Cong. church into their new bldg. in 1873 and moved back to its earlier home in 1878 when their new Geo.Stevens came in that year. Believed destroyed in 1926.
- \* 3rd organ: Austin #1369, 1926, 2m; moved in 1956 to Eliot bldg. and still in use, one stop changed by Andover Organ Co.

Westminster Presbyterian, (Canadian), United Presbyterian, organized 2/26/1888; merged 1930 with First Presbyterian; bldg. 1892 at 23 Tyler St., torn down after merger. nko

## PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCHES

### Lowell:

Berean Primitive Methodist, aka Lawrence St. P.M.; organized 1886 at Zion P.M., became independent 1897; now called Lawrence St. Methodist; 1st bldg. 1887 Moore St. near Lawrence St.; 2nd bldg. Lawrence St. near Morton.  
Organ: ? Said to have had an organ at one time but not within at least 40 years.



**First Primitive Methodist**, aka Zion Prim. Meth. (q.v.).

**Lawrence St. Primitive Methodist**, aka Berean Prim Meth. (q.v.).

**Matthews Memorial Primitive Methodist**, formerly Zion Prim. Meth. (q.v.).

**Zion Primitive Methodist**, later called 1st P.M., later called Matthews Memorial P.M.; organized 1870, disbanded 1875, reorganized 1879; 1st bldg. 1871 Gorham St. at Congress, sold 1904 to St. Anthony's Portuguese R.C.; 2nd bldg. 1904 Gorham St. corner of Ellsworth, now a Spanish congregation; 3rd bldg. c1970, Rt. 3A, Chelmsford.

\* 1st organ: Stevens, 1m; at front side, 2nd-hand?; moved to second bldg.?

P 2nd organ: Stevens, 2m, 18r or reg., 2nd-hand from St. Paul's M.E., installed 1906 by Wm. B. Goodwin. Other source says Simmons.

\* 3rd organ: Jellinak of Pittsburg using supply house chests and one set of pipes from the previous organ; case of Stevens not retained.

## **ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES**

### **Billerica:**

**St. Andrew's R.C.**, est. 1868, Talbot and Colson Sts., N. Billerica.

\* Organ: Estey #524, 1907, 2m., tubular pneumatic.

**St. Mary's R.C.**, est. 1937, 796 Boston Rd. nko

**St. Theresa's R.C.**, est. 1945, Boston Rd. at Concord Rd.; first bldg. formerly used by Billerica Baptist, originally Universalist; 2nd bldg. c1950 near 1st bldg. which was retained for parish use. Organ: May have retained the small Stevens organ of the Universalists.

### **Chelmsford:**

**St. John the Evangelist R.C.**, est. 1893; 1st bldg., said to have moved building of former Middlesex Village Church (Baptist) from

Hadley St., Lowell, to N. Chelmsford; later torn down; 2nd bldg., 115 Middlesex St., c1960.

1st organ: may have retained Goodrich organ that was in the Hadley St. bldg. Also, see Tewksbury Baptist for another story.

- \*S 2nd organ: Wm. Patchell c1960, 2m, using supply house chests with pipes from various sources.

**St. Mary's R.C.**, Chelmsford Center; 1st bldg. ?; 2nd bldg. c1965, 25 North Road; two Allen electronic instruments, 3m in gallery, 2m in chancel.

### **Dracut:**

**St. Francis. R.C.**, est. 1963, 890 Methuen St., recently dedicated second bldg.; no pipe organ in either one.

**St. Mary of the Assumption R.C.**, est. 1909, 1868 Lakeview Ave., scheduled to merge with St. Therese in 1999. nko.

- \* Organ: Laws

**St. Therese R.C.**, est. 1927, 1340 Lakeview Ave., scheduled to merge with St. Mary of the Assumption in 1999. nko.

### **Lowell:**

**Church of the Sacred Heart R.C.**, est. 1884, 159 Moore St., lower church dedicated 1885, upper church 1896.

- \* 1st organ: In lower church, Stevens, 2m, 17reg., 2nd-hand, installed by Hook & Hastings.
- \*P 2nd organ: In upper church, Simmons, 3m, 52reg., 2nd-hand, installed 1901 by Hutchings. Both organs were displaced by Hammonds c1950. The only known photograph of the Simmons is taken from a newspaper picture showing a reporter's pencil sketch.

**Holy Trinity R.C.**, est. 1904, 350 High St., wood.

- \*PS Organ: Simmons?. There remains a fine case with structure and two manual windchests of an organ that contained about 25 ranks. It was vandalized 193? in favor of a Hammond which in turn has been replaced by two subsequent electronic instruments. Stoplist is derived from the windchests and is tentative.



**Immaculate Conception R.C.** est. 1869, 144 E. Merrimack St. The original name was St. John's, changed 1872; scheduled to absorb St. Joseph's (Lithuanian) in 1999. 1st bldg., St. John's Hospital Chapel (q.v.); 2nd bldg. adjacent, lower church 1872, upper church 1877, stone.

- 1st organ: S.S.Hamill, 1m, 5r, in 1st bldg., made from old parts; probably moved to 2nd bldg. in 1872. See St. John's Hospital.
- \* 2nd organ: E.&G.G.Hook & Hastings #868, 1877, 3m, 54reg, 40r, installed in rear gallery.
  - \* 3rd organ: Hutchings, Plaisted & Co. #69, 1877, 3m, 52reg, 43r, installed behind the altar.
  - \* 4th organ: Wm. B. Goodwin, c1905; believed to have been an electrification of organs 2 and 3 with extensive additions, all playable from a new console in the rear and perhaps from another in the front. This organ was said to have been the only one in the world to contain a 128' stop and was listed as one of the 50 largest organs in the world. Goodwin was cited by the Pope for his outstanding work.
  - \* 5th organ: in lower church, Cole & Woodberry (Goodwin says H&H), perhaps incorporating portions of the first organ; electrified by Wm.W.Laws; rebuilt and installed 1979 in Fairhaven, Mass., Cong., by Roche Organ Co.
  - \* 6th organ: Wm.W.Laws, c1936, a new console for the rear gallery organ with removal of almost all of Goodwin's additions. The front organ disappeared presumably at this time, there being no provision for it in the new console. All of the Hook & Hastings would appear to have been retained but in more recent years most of the reeds and mixtures as well as the entire Choir have disappeared. Even the sad remains are seldom used now since the choir and cantor are in the front accompanied by a much overdriven electronic keyboard.

**Notre Dame de Lourdes**, est. 1908; 1st bldg. formerly Branch St. Tabernacle (Baptist) (q.v.); 2nd bldg. Middlesex St.; 3rd bldg. c1965, 101 Smith St.

- P 1st organ: Stevens, acquired in the bldg. from the Baptists.
- 2nd organ: Hutchings, Plaisted, & Co. #47/51, 1875, 2m, 30reg., in 2nd bldg., moved from 1st Universalist 1945.
- 3rd organ: Hook & Hastings #1354, 1887, 3m, 41reg., second-hand from St. Joseph's R.C. on Lee St. (q.v.); moved and electrified c1950 by Rostron Kershaw. The Choir division became the Echo at First United Baptist (where it exists) and was presumably not ever present at Notre Dame. In 1974 this organ was destroyed.

**St. Anthony's R.C.**, est. 1901, a Portuguese Parish; 1st bldg. Gorham St. at Congress St., bought from 1st P.M., torn down; 2nd bldg. believed to be the temporary bldg. constructed by St. Peter's R.C. in 1883; 3rd bldg. c1980, 893 Central St. on the site of the previous bldg.

- \* Geo.Stevens, 1883 (?), 1m, 5r, not moved to new bldg.; said to have been moved to St. Margaret's but never appeared there; presumed destroyed.

**St. Columba's R.C.**, est. 1910, name changed 1925 to Shrine of St. Rita (q.v.).

**St. Jean Baptiste R.C.**, est. 1889, bldg. 307 Merrimack St., lower church 1890, upper church 1896; major fire 1912; parish suppressed c1980; bldg. now Nuestra Senora del Carmen.

- \* 1st organ: lower church, Stevens 2-15 rebuilt and installed by Geo.H.Ryder. Not present within recent decades.
- \*P 2nd organ: upper church, Jesse Woodberry & Co., burned 1912.
- \*P 3rd organ: Frazee, reconstruction of Woodberry organ with many additions, including a large organ in front (which may have been a separate organ by Casavant); listed by Frazee as 4-112.
- \* 4th organ: Kershaw, 1952, 3m, 33s, 41r; rebuild of previous organ retaining most of the Woodberry with some changes. None of the front organ remained. The blower operated on 500 volts direct current which was no longer supplied after about 1970 so the organ has not been used since then although still present in recent years.

**St. Jeanne d'Arc R.C.**, est. 1922, 135 Fourth Ave.

- \* Organ: Estey #2783, 1929, 2m; damaged by water c1970; not retained in bldg. renovations c1985.

**St. John's R.C.**, name changed to Immaculate Conception (q.v.).

**St. John's Hospital Chapel**,

- \* 1st organ: S.S.Hamill, 1m, 5r., disposition unknown.
- \* 2nd organ: Wurlitzer, came in 1934, disposition unknown.

**St. Joseph's R.C.**, French, est. 1868, in 1956 became St. Joseph the Worker Shrine. Bldg. bought 1868, a very fine stone structure from Second Unitarian (q.v.), twice enlarged; the left side wall was removed and a new nave built at right angles to that of the original church; the rear gallery has been partially removed and the remainder walled off.



- \* 1st organ: Unknown builder, from the Unitarians.
- \*P 2nd organ: Hook & Hastings #1354, 1887, 3-41; moved to Notre Dame by Kershaw, later destroyed.

**St. Joseph's R.C.**, est. 1908, a Lithuanian Parish, 151 Rogers St., at Concord St., scheduled to be merged into Immaculate Conception in 1999.

- \* 1st organ: E.&G.G.Hook, 18 stops, second-hand. A blower was installed here in 1919 by J.D.Brennan who listed the make of organ as Hook and it could possibly have been installed by him at that time.
- \* 2nd organ: Estey, a 2nd hand theatre organ of 19 ranks, installed by Essex Organ Co.; console removed in favor of Hammond but pipes were still present within five years.

**St. Louis de France**, est. 1904, 1st bldg. at 6th St. at Boisvert St., being the lower floor only of a massive granite structure; 2nd bldg., c1950, a reconstruction of the previous bldg. with a higher ceiling but no second floor in a different architectural style resulting in a grossly ill-conceived appearance.

- \* 1st organ: Ryder, 1m, from St. Michael's (?). Replaced by Wurlitzer electronic.
- \* 2nd organ: Estey, second-hand, installed by Laws.
- \* 3rd organ: Kershaw, rebuild of previous organ with unsuccessful tonal changes; not used since c1985.

**St. Margaret's R.C.**, est. 1910; bldg. 380 Stevens St.

- \*S Organ: Estey #2075, 1923, 2m, not used since about 1990, destroyed 1997.

**St. Marie R.C.**, est. 1906, a French Parish; 75 Chamberlain St., South Lowell; reorganized 1931, 1st bldg., 185 Woburn St., a basement only; 2nd bldg., recent, nearby. nko

**St. Mary's R.C.**, est. 1847, a mission of St. Patrick's; bought brick bldg. with a tall steeple, seats for 1000, on Lowell St. at Suffolk St., constructed in 1833 by Second Baptist, sold 1837 to Second Methodist, rented 1843 to Second Wesleyan Methodist. St. Mary's was suppressed c1865 as a result of a notorious controversy between Fa. McDermott, the pastor, and the Bishop. It was reopened about 1880 for few years but converted to a school before 1888, and finally torn down c1940.

- \* 1st organ: Thomas Appleton 1824, 3rd-hand from Federal St. Baptist Church, Boston; sold to Weymouth R.C.

- \* 2nd organ: ? obtained 2nd hand in 1859 for \$4500, said to be the best organ in the city; disposition unknown.

**St. Michael's R.C.**, est. 1883, 6th St.; bldg., lower church 1884, upper church 1900.

- \* 1st organ: lower church, Geo.H.Ryder #117, 1884, 1m, 5r, still there in 1897.
- \*P 2nd organ: upper church, Hook (?), 3m (?); 2nd-hand, probably installed 1900, probably by Wm. B. Goodwin; the photograph consists of a copy of the picture included in the newspaper article on the dedication and is actually a sketch made by the reporter who said the organ was "nearly new" (although the style of the case suggests a date in the 1860s) and contained 2000 pipes.
- \*P 3rd organ: lower church, James Cole 1900 (?), 2m.
- \*P 4th organ: upper church; a photograph in the possession of the church shows an organ in the rear gallery with an attached console and a case bearing no resemblance to the newspaper picture of the Hook. It is not known if this was a rebuild with a new case of that organ or an entirely different organ.
- \* 5th organ: lower church, W.W.Laws, a 10 rank electrified tracker organ with pipework from various sources, possibly mostly the Cole. No longer used after Vatican II, dispersed 1980.
- \* 6th organ: upper church, W.W.Laws, rebuild and installation of Hook & Hastings #1167, 1883, 2-25, formerly in Christ Church, Cambridge. Many unfortunate tonal changes; 3m console although organ remained two manuals.
- \* 7th organ: Andover Organ Co. and R.J. Reich, organist of the church, addition of chests from lower church organ to provide a third division with revoicing of all stops and provision of 11 additional stops with pipes from both organs and several others.

**St. Patrick's R.C.**, aka First Catholic, organized 1832; 1st bldg. 1831, Fenwick St., rb. 1834; 2nd bldg. 1854.

- \* 1st organ: Ebenezer Goodrich, 1831, moved to new church.
- \* 2nd organ: Stevens, in lower church of new bldg.
- \* 3rd organ: E.&G.G.Hook #257, 1859, 3m, 38reg., 28r; valued at \$3000 in 1865; burned 1904; some pipes salvaged and incorporated into the Cole organ in Chelmsford (whether Episcopal or Unitarian not known).
- \* 4th organ: Jesse Woodberry & Co., #199, 1901, (built for stock), 2m, 7r, sold 1980, removed by Mann and Trupiano.
- \* 5th organ: Jesse Woodberry & Co., #235, 1905, 4m, \$11000; 51 stops (on blower order); 3m console installed c1960 by Kershaw;



still used occasionally although almost unplayable because of cyphers in the ventril chests.

**St. Peter's R.C.**, aka Second Catholic, organized 1841; 1st bldg. 1842 of brick at Gorham and Appleton Sts., had small tower, torn down 1890; 2nd bldg., wood, for temporary use while 1st bldg. was torn down to make a place for the 3rd bldg.; later may have become St. Anthony's R.C.; 3rd bldg., lower church 1892, upper church 1900, an immense structure of granite; torn down c1994. The parish was decimated by urban redevelopment and construction of an Interstate business spur nearby leading to suppression of the parish c1988.

- \*P 1st organ: Geo. Stevens, 1842, 2m, 15r, in 1st bldg., moved to 3rd bldg. lower church; case installed 1993 for a rebuilt 1870 Simmons organ at Yarmouth, Me., Congregational, by Andover Organ Co.
- \*S 2nd organ: Geo. Stevens, 1883, 1m, 5 1/2r, believed installed in 2nd bldg. and sold with bldg. to St. Anthony's R.C. where it survived until c1980.
- \*SP 3rd organ: Hook & Hastings #1848, 1899, 3m, 48s, electric action with slider chests, releathered c1950 by Rostron Kershaw who provided a new console; removed c1991 by Andover Organ Co. and presently in storage.
- \* 4th organ: Estey #3076, 1937, 2m, in the case of the 1842 Stevens organ; rebuilt with new console by Kershaw; dispersed c1995.

**St. Rita's Shrine**, organized 1912 as St. Columba's R.C.Church, 162 Mammouth Rd., name changed 1925.

- \*S Organ: Hook & Hastings #1425, 1889, 2m, 17reg., 10r, from New Presbyterian, Winston, N.C.; not in use for many years but repaired and again in use since c1994 having miraculously survived two electronic substitutes.

### **Pelham:**

**St. Patrick's R.C.**, bldg. 20th cent., stone, seats about 450.

- \* Organ: AEolian-Skinner #3017, 2nd-hand; 2m, 3r, 207p.

### **Tewksbury:**

**St. William R.C. Church**, est. 1935, 1351 Main St., nko

**Tyngsboro:**

**St. Mary Magdalen R.C. Church**, est. 1959, 250 Tyngsboro Rd., nko.

**UNITARIAN CHURCHES****Billerica:**

**First Parish Church**, Concord Rd., gathered 1655, organized 1663; 1st bldg. 1659; 4th bldg. 1797, burned 12/27/1967, 5th bldg. 1970.

- \* 1st organ: Hook #2, 1829, from St. Paul's Epis. or 1st Cong., Burlington, Vt.; went to Swedish Cong., Lowell.
- \*PS 2nd organ: S.S.Hamill, #169, 1869, 2m, 13r, \$2400, somewhat rebuilt 1886 by S.S.Hamill as #369.
- \* 3rd organ: Andover Organ Co., 1957, renovations with tonal changes, burned 1967.
- \*P 4th organ: Emmons Howard from 1st Meth., Holyoke, Mass., 1890, 2m, rebuilt and installed by Andover Organ Co., using many pipes salvaged from previous organ as well as new pipes, some from the Howard, and some from other old organs, with assistance from OCH.

**Chelmsford:****First Parish, Unitarian,**

- \* 1st organ: unknown; 40 years ago there was a very strange case in front of the organ in the rear gallery, part of which looked very early, i.e., c1830-40. This case may have contained portions from the first organ.
- \* 2nd organ: James Cole, pneumatic (?), front right, facade of Diapason pipes with no wood except verticals and a horizontal bar.
- \* 3rd organ: ? probably a rebuild of the Cole, located in rear in a case probably contrived by whoever moved the organ to the rear; this may imply that the original organ survived until then.
- \* 4th organ: Wicks, 5 rank unit, in rear; no case.

**Lowell:**



**All Souls Church.** Congregational-Unitarian; formed 1919 by merger of First Unitarian and High St. Cong. at the bldg. of the latter (see Fifth Cong.).

Organ: E.M.Skinner #299, 1919.

**First Unitarian.** aka South Congregational, org. 1832; bldg. 1832, 46 Merrimack St., seated 900, a store front type bldg. with shops on the lower floor and entrance to the church on one side; later modified to have entrance on the street side so that other buildings could be constructed on either side of it; still in existence in commercial use; combined 1919 with High St. Cong. at High St. bldg. to form All Souls Church.

- \* 1st organ: E.&G.G.Hook #9, 1832, 2m, 24 reg., cost \$1800, in rear; sold to Graniteville Methodist (Goodwin) and assumed to have been removed when Hook #423 was installed. Perhaps actually only the latter organ was ever installed in Graniteville and this confusing information here resulted from unclear entries on Goodwin's list.
- \* 2nd organ: Hook #423, 1867, 2m, 26 reg.; sold to Graniteville Methodist (Goodwin); destroyed c1950, except for case which was moved back to the wall and remained until c1975 when it was sold to the Andover Organ Co. and in 1987 installed by AOC in Trinitarian Cong. Ch. of North Andover.

**Second Unitarian.** aka Church of the Pilgrims, aka Lee Street Church; organized 1846 at Bank Building; bldg. on Lee St., 1850; stone, seated 600; church closed 1861; bldg. used by Spiritualists 1864-68; sold 1868 to St. Joseph's R.C. (q.v.).

- \* Organ: ? Mentioned in city directories of 1856 and 1859; cost \$1200. Replaced 1887 by Hook.&Hastings #1354, 3m; disposition unknown.

**Unity Congregational.** organized 1895, bldg. 1896 at 118 Church St.; 1906 church closed, perhaps earlier.

Organ: ?

### **Tyngsboro:**

**Tyngsboro Unitarian;** church recently closed; reed organ, 2m&p.

## **UNIVERSALIST CHURCHES**

### **Billerica:**

**Billerica Universalist**, had bldg. c1850, closed early 20th century, bldg. went to Billerica Baptist, became St. Theresa's R.C. c1945, later used as parish hall, now in other use.

- \* Organ: Said to have had small Stevens organ; disposition unknown.

## **Lowell:**

**First Universalist**, organized 7/1827; 1st bldg. 1827 on Chapel St., wood, moved 1837 to Central and Green Sts.; site taken for new Boston and Lowell R.R. station; seated 630; 2nd bldg. 27 Hurd St. near Central 1872-4; 1945 joined with Grace Univ. to form 1st Grace Univ. at bldg. of Grace.

- \*P 1st organ: Geo.Stevens, 1840, 2-12, 5-sectional case, located in 3-sided gallery, disposition unknown.
- \*P 2nd organ: Hutchings, Plaisted & Co., #51, 1874, exposed Great pipework in flamboyant arrangement; 2m, variously listed as 25, 28, and 30 stops or registers; in 1945 went to Notre Dame de Lourdes R.C. (q.v.).

**Second Universalist**, aka Shattuck St. Univ., organized 1836; 1st bldg. 1838, Shattuck and Market Sts., had steeple, seated 600, became Casto Theatre, eventually torn down; 2nd bldg. 1896, Princeton Blvd., name changed to Grace Univ. at this time; 1945 merged with 1st Univ. to form 1st Grace Univ. at Grace bldg.; c1969 sold bldg. to St. George Greek Orthodox and subsequently met in residence; c1966 absorbed the Unitarian part of All Souls Church to become the Unit.-Univ. Ch. of Lowell; no longer listed in telephone directory.

- \* 1st organ: E.&G.G.Hook #74, 1846, \$1500, went to Fitchburg Universalist.
- \*PS 2nd organ: Geo.Stevens, 1888; 2m, 27reg, 22r moved to new bldg. 1896.
- \*PS 3rd organ: probably the same organ with a new case and little or no change in pipework; perhaps changed at time of move, perhaps later; work looks like Methuen Organ Co.; organ still present according to reports but unused since sale of bldg. to St. Geo. Orth.

**Third Universalist**, organized 1844, gone by 1853; bldg. 1844 or 5 on Merrimack St. at Central; sold 1853 to 2nd Wesleyan Meth., 1854 to Central Meth., later known as Barrister's Hall, partially rented to Union Free Baptist.



- \* Organ: Stevens organ present in 1847 (Bos. Mus. Gaz. 1/18/1847); bldg. had 2nd-hand organ in 1859; Central Meth. paid \$200 for the organ; probably all this information pertains to the same organ but it is uncertain.

## **OTHER CHURCHES, LOWELL**

**First Pentecostal**, after 1922 called Church of the Nazarene, organized 1903; bldg. 1907, 51 First St.; now Spanish Church of the Nazarene. nko

**Free Chapel**, nondenominational, organized 1844 by Lowell Missionary Society, listed in 1845 as Unitarian; 1887 called Ministry at Large Chapel; 1889, Ministry at Large Church; 1901 Free Church; 1940 gone; bldg. c1844 150 Middlesex St. between South and Eliot Sts.; in recent years occupied by Lowell Nursing Assoc.; believed razed within last 20 years.  
Organ: ?

**People's Church**, aka Primitive Baptist, undenominational; 1637 Middlesex St. nko

**Seventh Day Adventist**, Liberty at School Sts., c1965 took over bldg. of Swedish Lutheran (q.v.).  
Organ: May retain Morton theatre organ.

**St. Cosmos or St. Kazimierz Polish National**, organized 1908; 1st bldg. 1908 Rogers and Concord Sts., sold to St. Joseph's Lithuanian R.C.; 2nd bldg., Lakeview Ave., 1911.

- \* Organ: S.S.Hamill, not known which bldg. Gone.

## **Schools, Institutions**

**Lowell Municipal Auditorium**, Merrimack St., 1922, still in use.  
Organ: Emmons Howard, 1922, 4m, installed by Burton Witham of Portland, Me., had console on elevator platform; it was in basement position at the time of the 1938 hurricane which was accompanied by a flood; this destroyed the console; the organ was not repaired and the pipes were dispersed over the years.

**Masonic Temple**; 1st bldg. 1872, burned 1890; 2nd bldg. 1890, burned 1927; 3rd bldg. 1928.

- \* 1st organ: Geo.Stevens 1872, 1m. Different sources say taken in trade by Ryder or rebuilt into a larger organ.
- \* 2nd organ: Geo.H.Ryder #28, 1874, Wm. B. Goodwin, consultant, burned 1890.
- \* 3rd organ: Geo.H.Ryder #167, 2m, 19r, designed by Goodwin; burned 1927.
- \* 4th organ: Kimball, Smallman, &Frazee #18, 1913, 2-24reg., exists. It would appear that there were two organs at the same time for some years.

**Notre Dame Academy**, next to St. Patrick's Church, bldg. now gone.

- \* Organ: Hook & Hastings #741, 1874, 2-12reg., 8r., disposition unk.

**University of Lowell**, Music Building c1973.

- \*S 1st organ: Wicks, 1978, 2m&p, 1r, tracker, practice organ.
- \*S 2nd organ: Wicks, identical to above.
- \*SP 3rd organ: Schlicker, 1978, 2m, 12r, tracker, in Recital Hall.

## **THEATRES**

**Casto Theatre**, formerly 2nd Univ. Ch.; organ believed removed previously.

**Crown Theatre**, Organ: Kilgen #4148, 1928, 2m, 3r.

**Keith Theatre**

**Lowell Theatre**, organ: Frazee, 4m.

**Palace Theatre**

**Strand Theatre**, organ: Austin #725, 1917, 3m, 19r, destroyed 1981.

## **RESIDENCES**

**Joseph Ely**, Organ: Hutchings, Plaisted & Co. #15, 1872, 2m-28reg., sold to 5th St. Baptist Church where it burned in 1979.



**R. S. Fox**, Organ: Goodrich chamber organ, 1m, 4r, from Geo. Metcalf residence.

**A.F.French**, organ: put together by Wm. B. Goodwin for Pres. French of Lowell Normal School from a 9 rank E. W. Lane organ and a large old slider chest, possibly Stevens, to form a 3m tracker organ which at present writing remains in the house at 213 Parkview Ave.

**William B. Goodwin**, Organ: Stevens, 1m, from Geo. Hedrick res.

**George Hedrick**, 75 Chestnut St., became residence of Wm. B. Goodwin; organ: Stevens 1838, 1m, 4r, from a local church, said by John Goodwin to have been first Stevens organ in Lowell, said church probably having been Worthen St. Baptist; broken up.

**George Metcalf**,

- \* 1st organ: Goodrich chamber organ, 1m, 4r, went to R.S.Fox residence or: R.S.Fox was Metcalf's associate and successor in the insurance business so it may be the organ was not moved when Fox took over at the death of Metcalf.
- \* 2nd organ: Stevens organ from St. Anne's Church, rebuilt by Coburn, Cole, and Goodwin, later went to Centralville Meth. Ch.

**Dr. O'Leary**,

- \* 1st organ: E.W.Lane, 1908, 3-18; since Lane was working for Hutchings in 1908, this may have been an earlier smaller organ rebuilt in 1908. Marty Walsh asks if this is the same organ as the one listed above for A.F.French.
- \* 2nd organ: Jesse Woodberry & Co., 3m, 23r, moved in 1915 from J. Ritchie residence, Warren St., Roxbury.